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# PAPER

IN

# COLONIES AND TRADE.

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The GOLD MEDAL, being the Premium offered by the Society, in 1792, to the person who should first discover a PASSAGE by LAND from the North-West parts of Upper Canada to the South Sea, between Nootka Sound and the Straits of Kamschatka, or to the navigable part of any River that disembogues itself into the South Sea, within those limits, was this Session adjudged to ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, Esq. in consequence of the following Accounts and Certificates.

SIR,

AGREEABLY to your Excellency's request, I beg leave to acquaint you, that on the 9th of May, 1793, I, in a bark-canoe, left one of our settlements in the North-West, on the Unjegah or Peace River, latitude 56° 9′ North,

and longitude 117° 43′ West from Greenwich, for the purpose of penetrating to the Western Ocean. I followed up the waters of this river to their source, and carried my canoe over the height of land, which is only seven hundred yards; from thence I continued my route down a small river, which I found to discharge itself into the branch of a large one, which the natives call Tacoutch Tesse, or Tacoutch River. We were carried down this river by the strength of the current with great velocity. I found that it took too much of a southern course to bring me to the sea so soon as I intended; and, from the best information I could procure, I judged that it did not discharge itself to the northward of the river of the West, a branch of which, if not the whole of that river, I conceive it to be. Though I was sensible that this was the best, but not the shortest communication with the sea, circumstances would not admit of my taking it; therefore I returned up the river

river five days journey, then left my canoe, and such part of her lading as we could not carry with us, in latitude 53° North, and longitude 122° 43′ West. After travelling fifteen days, I arrived at the Western Ocean.

The sea along the coast being much interspersed with islands, I borrowed a canoe, and went out amongst them about twenty leagues. I found myself to be in Middleton Sound, in latitude 52° 23′ North, and longitude 128° 15′ West; from which place I commenced my return the 23d of July, by the same road which I had passed, and arrived safe with my people, on the 24th of August, at the place from whence I had taken my departure.

I have the honour to be, with respect,

Your EXCELLENCY'S

Most obedient humble servant,

ALEXANDER MACKENZIE.

*Hind's Tavern,*
*Sept.* 10, 1794.

His Excellency Governor SIMCOE.

*Extract of a Letter from Governor* SIMCOE *to* WILLIAM WALCOT, *Esq. of the Inner Temple, dated Sept.* 13, 1794.

I PARTICULARLY address myself now to you, inclosing Mr. Mackenzie's letter to me, and desiring you to call on Mr. More with it, and offer my best regards. You will be so good as to make with him any further arrangements necessary for me to certify, that Mr. Mackenzie has penetrated to the Pacific. He is " open, bold, and brave."

SIR,

UPON inquiry about the Certificate necessary to show the Society that Mr. Mackenzie did perform the journey that entitles him to the Gold Medal, voted by them, I have to inform you, that

that General Simcoe (who is at present in town) will satisfy every doubt that can arise on that head; as I understand that the General, some time ago, presented Mr. Mackenzie with a piece of plate, with an inscription suitable to the occasion, as a testimony of regard and admiration of his spirited enterprise. If any further proof is wanting, a reference to Lord Grenville and Earl Spencer, with whom Mr. Mackenzie had an interview, will put the matter entirely out of doubt.

I am,

Dear SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

PAT. SMALL.

*Arundel-Street,*
*April* 15, 1800.

To JOSEPH COLEN, Esq.
New Inn, late Governor
of York Fort, Hudson's
Bay.

SIR,

I HAVE formerly taken steps to certify to the Society instituted for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, that, during my administration of the Government of Upper Canada, Mr. Mackenzie, of the North-West Company, had passed from Upper Canada to the sea-coast of the Northern Pacific Ocean, and thereby fulfilled the terms on which the Society were pleased to offer a Medal, for the encouragement of this arduous undertaking. I take the liberty, at present, in order to substantiate the claim of Mr. Mackenzie, as far as in me lies, to desire that you will be pleased to inform me if any further means may be necessary for that purpose.

I have the honour to be, SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

J. G. SIMCOE,

Late Lieut.-Gov. of Upper Canada.

*London, April* 28, 1800.

To Mr. CHARLES TAYLOR.

THE Society are informed, that a particular Account of Mr. Mackenzie's interesting Journey will soon be published. A Map of Canada, on which this route is delineated, has been presented to the Society by Governor Colen.